Comstock, G.W., Meyer, M.B., Helsing, K.J., Tockman, M.S. "Respiratory Effects of Household Exposures to Tobacco Smoke and Gas Cooking" Am Rev Resp Dis 124: 143-148, 1981.

SUMMARY: The records of 1,724 residents of Washington County, Maryland, who had participated in 2 studies of respiratory symptoms and ventilatory function were analyzed to evaluate the effects of exposures at home to tobaco smoke generated by other members of their households and to fumes from the use of gas as a cooking fuel. Currently smoking subjects showed the highest frequency of respiratory symptoms and impaired ventilatory function; former smokers showed a lower frequency of these findings: and persons who had never smoked had the lowest prevalence of abnormal respiratory findings. The presence of a smoker in the household other than the subject was not associated with the frequency of respiratory symptoms, and only suggestively associated with evidence of impaired ventilatory function. The use of gas for cooking was related to an increased frequency of respiratory symptoms and impaired ventilatory function among men, being most marked among men who had never smoked. There was no evidence that cooking with gas was harmful to women.

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